

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 EB-08 COME-00 SMS-01
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-03 H-01 HA-05 SY-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 PA-01 /071 W
-----108442 251550Z /42
O 251520Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6035

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20427

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, BGEN, UR, US (CRAWFORD, FRANCIS JAY)
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST CASE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 20346, (B) MOSCOW 20190, (C) MOSCOW
18304

1. CRAWFORD RETURNED TO LEFORTOVO PRISON WITH CONSOFF
AND I-H EXECUTIVE CHELLMAN ON AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 24
AND MORNING OF AUGUST 25. INTERROGATION LASTED FROM
1600 TO 1945 ON THURSDAY AND FROM 1050 TO 1240 ON
FRIDAY. NEITHER CONSOFF NOR CHELLMAN WERE PRESENT AT
INTERROGATIONS.

2. DURING CRAWFORD'S INTERROGATION ON AUGUST 24,
COLONEL VOLODIN ASKED CHELLMAN AND CONSOFF TO CALL
CRAWFORD'S LAWYER, POPOV, TO REVIEW EVIDENCE AND DIS-
CUSS CASE WITH CRAWFORD. VOLODIN STATED THAT IF POPOV
WAS UNABLE TO TAKE THE CASE WITHIN FIVE WORK DAYS, I.E.,
BY AUGUST 31, ANOTHER LAWYER WOULD HAVE TO BE APPOINTED.
(N.B.: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LAWYER IS PERMITTED TO
ENTER CASE AFTER PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION HAS FORMALLY
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ENDED.)

3. COLONEL VOLODIN RETURNED 15 MINUTES AFTER FIRST
CONVERSATION AND SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED POPOV'S OFFICE
AND ASCERTAINED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE MOSCOW
COLLEGIUM OF LAWYERS, KONSTANTIN NICHOLAYEVICH APRAKSIN,
WAS WORKING LATE. AT THE REQUEST OF CHELLMAN, WHO

SPEAKS NO RUSSIAN, CONSOFF CALLED APRAKSIN WHO INFORMED HIM THAT POPOV WAS AVAILABLE AND COULD BE REACHED AT 1000 AUGUST 25. CONSOFF ASKED VOLODIN WHEN THE TRIAL WOULD TAKE PLACE. VOLODIN STATED THAT IT WOULD BE "SOON," BUT REFUSED TO BE MORE EXACT. (N.B.: CASES ARE NORMALLY TRIED 9-15 DAYS AFTER FORMAL CLOSE OF INVESTIGATION.)

4. DURING AUGUST 24 SESSION, CRAWFORD'S INTERROGATORS CONFRONTED HIM WITH VOLODYA KISILOV. READING A PREPARED STATEMENT, KISILOV CONFIRMED EARLY DECLARATIONS BY HIS WIFE AND LARISSA FOMINA THAT HE HAD OVER SEVERAL YEARS CHANGED SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS AT THE RATE OF 2.50 RUBLES TO THE DOLLAR. COMMENT: CRAWFORD STATED THAT VOLODYA WAS CLEARLY NERVOUS AND AT ONE POINT SAID IN ENGLISH: "HE WAS MY FRIEND; HE WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME." END COMMENT. CRAWFORD WAS TOLD THAT KISILOV HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED A JAIL SENTENCE FOR ILLEGALLY CONVERTING MONEY, WHILE HIS WIFE HAD SERVED A SENTENCE FOR BEING IN MOSCOW WITHOUT A VALID "PROPISKA" (RESIDENCE PERMIT).

5. AUGUST 25 INTERROGATION CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF CRAWFORD'S ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL UTILIZATION OF RUBLES. FOR EXAMPLE, INTOURIST BILLS ARE QUOTED IN RUBLE AMOUNTS BUT MUST BE PAID IN DOLLARS. BELYAYEV ALLEGED THAT THE BILLS WERE PAID IN RUBLES WHICH WERE OBTAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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ILLEGALLY BY CRAWFORD.

6. CRAWFORD MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AUGUST 25. HE PLANS TO STATE THAT TRIAL IS IMMINENT AND THAT HE HAS BEEN WITHOUT COUNSEL SINCE DATE OF ARREST. CRAWFORD ALSO PLANS TO EMPHASIZE LONG HOURS OF INTERROGATION.

7. CRAWFORD IS NOTICEABLY TIRED BY LONG HOURS OF INTERROGATION - 17 HOURS DURING AUGUST 23 AND 24. HE REMAINS A CONVINCING WITNESS IN FACE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE PERJURED TESTIMONY AND DOCTORED EVIDENCE.

8. CRAWFORD IS SCHEDULED FOR SECOND INTERROGATION OF DAY AT 1600 ON AUGUST 25. CONSOFF WILL ACCOMPANY CRAWFORD. CHELLMAN HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH SOVIET LAWYER POPOV FOR 1700.

9. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENT EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL (PARA 3, REFTEL C) THAT WOODBRIDGE DUO BE REQUIRED TO SATISFY AT LEAST NORMAL REQUIREMENT TO REPORT TO US AUTHORITIES. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT'S

DECISION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW20427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780348-0892
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780823/aaaaatiy.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c25a755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 20346, 78 MOSCOW 20190, 78 MOSCOW 8
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1621513
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRAWFORD ARREST CASE
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, BGEN, UR, US, (CRAWFORD, FRANCIS JAY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c25a755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014